

**The story of the Wounded Worshipper**  
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**Written by Mansoor Ali Shah**

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## **Chapter 1: The Wound and the Worshipper**

### **Perseverance by the River**

**Shaykh Sa'dī—may Allah have mercy on him—once encountered a devout man residing by the bank of a river. This man was afflicted by a deep wound caused by a leopard's attack. Despite the passage of many years, and despite the application of various remedies, his injury remained unhealed.**

## **Constancy in Gratitude:**

**Remarkably, the man continued to express gratitude to God Almighty throughout his suffering. This steadfastness drew the attention of those around him, who questioned the reason for his unyielding thankfulness.**

## **The Gratitude of the Righteous:**

**Devout Man:**

**"I thank God for the blessing that I am afflicted with a trial and not ensnared in sin."**

## **The Righteous Preference:**

**Shaykh Sa'dī—may Allah have mercy on him—reflected that the true servants of God choose affliction over sin. He presented a compelling example drawn from sacred tradition to underline this noble sentiment.**

**Shaykh Sa'dī:**

**"Have you not seen what Joseph the Truthful said in his condition?"**

## **The Prayer of Prophet Yūsuf (AS):**

**Prophet Yūsuf (AS):**

**"My Lord! I prefer prison to what these women invite me towards."**

**Thus, Shaykh Sa'dī's account serves as a testament to the spiritual fortitude of the pious, who embrace hardship in this world rather than compromise their moral integrity.**